

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A low-pressure mercury-vapor discharge lamp comprising:

a discharge vessel (10) enclosing, in a gastight manner, a discharge space (13) provided with a filling of mercury and an inert gas in a gastight manner,

the discharge vessel (10) comprising electrodes (20a; 20b) arranged in the discharge space (13) for maintaining a discharge in the discharge space (13),

the probability of failure of the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp being substantially determined by one of the electrodes (20a).

2. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, upon igniting the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp, ignition-related events influence the electrodes (20a, 20b), the ignition-related events being substantially prevented from affecting the one electrode (20a).

3. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp, upon igniting, is substantially operated under DC current conditions and, during further operation, is substantially operated under AC current conditions.

4. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp is operated on a ballast circuit, the ballast circuit comprising means for substantially keeping the ignition away from the one electrode (20a).

5. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the ballast comprises a circuit assembly comprising a diode.

6. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprises a glow starter circuit comprising a circuit assembly comprising a diode.

7. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the electrodes (20a, 20b) are provided with an emitter material for supplying electrons to the discharge, the mass of the emitter material of the one electrode (20a) being 20% lower than the average mass of the emitter material of the electrodes (20a, 20b).

8. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the electrodes (20a, 20b) are provided with an emitter material for supplying electrons to the discharge, the content of barium, calcium and/or strontium in the emitter material of the one electrode (20a) being 20% lower than the average barium, calcium or strontium content in the emitter material of the electrodes (20a, 20b), respectively.

9. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the temperature of the one electrode (20a) is 20% lower than the average temperature of the electrodes (20a, 20b).

10. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that the one

electrode (20a) is surrounded by an electrode ring (22a), the electrode ring functioning as a cage of Faraday.

11. (currently amended) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 1~~or~~2, characterized in that an antenna is provided in the vicinity of the one electrode (20a) for guiding away the discharge upon igniting the low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp.

12. (original) A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the antenna comprises a bi-metal.